

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for remote or collaborative control of an imaging system, the imaging system associated with an application model located at a first location and the application model being in communication with the imaging system, the method comprising the steps of:

5 providing a first user interface at the first location;
providing a second user interface at a second location, in response to a request for remote or collaborative control of the imaging system at the second location; and
communicating with the application model via at least one of the first user interface and the second user interface.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein providing a second user interface includes generating the second user interface from the application model.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein providing a second user interface includes replicating at least a part of the first user interface using the application model to the second location.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising commanding the imaging system using at least one of the first and the second user interfaces.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising updating the first and the second user interfaces in response to at least one command made to the imaging system by at least one of the first and the second user interfaces or in response to at least one response returned from the imaging system.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein updating the first and the second user interfaces include the application model generating an interface update in response to the at least one command from the first or the second user interface or in response to the at least one response from the imaging system.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first location is proximate to the imaging system.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the second location is remote from the first location and the imaging system.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein communicating with the application model by the second user interface includes communicating with a communications network coupled between the application model and the second user interface.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the communications network is selected from a group including an intranet, the Internet, a local area network (LAN), a broadband network, a wireless network, and a variety of other networks.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the second user interface is proximate to the imaging system.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the second location is the first location.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein communicating with the application model includes the first and the second user interfaces directly communicating with the application model.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the first user interface, the second user interface, and the application model are included in a collaboration control unit.

15. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a third user interface at a third another location where the remote or collaborative control will occur, wherein the locations of the first, the second, and the third user interfaces are different from each other.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the first user interface is a user interface selected from a group including a user interface similar to at least a portion

of the second user interface, and a user interface different from the second user interface.

17. An apparatus for remote or collaborative control of an imaging system, the imaging system being in communication with a control unit located at a first location, the apparatus comprising a second user interface provided at a second location where the remote or collaborative control of the imaging system will occur, wherein the control unit includes a first user interface and an application model, and the second user interface is configured to transmit a second command to the control unit and to receive a second user interface update from the control unit, and the second user interface being provided in response to a request for remote or collaborative control of the imaging system at the second location.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second user interface is generated from the application model when remote or collaborative control of the imaging system is requested by an operator.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second user interface is configured to transmit the second command to the application model and to receive the second user interface update from the application model.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first user interface is configured to transmit a first command to the application model and to receive a first user interface update from the application model.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the imaging system is controlled via at least one of the first and the second commands from the first and the second user interfaces, respectively.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first and the second user interface updates are generated by the application model in response to any of the first command, the second command, or at least one response returned from the imaging system.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first and the second user interface updates are similar to each other.

24. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second location is remote from the imaging system and the first location.

5 25. The apparatus of claim 24, further comprising a communications network coupled between the application model and the second user interface.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the communications network is selected from a group including an intranet, the Internet, a local area network (LAN), a broadband network, and a wireless network.

10 27. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second location is proximate to the first location.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the second user interface is included in the control unit.

15 29. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a third user interface at a third location where the remote or collaborative control will occur, wherein the locations of the first, the second, and the third user interfaces are different from each other.

30. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second user interface is included in at least one of a local operator console and a remote workstation.

20 31. An apparatus for remote or collaborative control of an imaging system, the apparatus comprising:

first means for interfacing at a first location;

second means for interfacing at a second location, in response to a request for remote or collaborative control of the imaging system at the second location; and

means for updating located at the first location and configured to receive a second command from the second means for interfacing and transmit a second interface update to the second means for interfacing in response to the second command.

5 32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the means for updating is further configured to receive a first command from the first means for interfacing and transmit a first interface update to the first means for interfacing in response to the first command.

10 33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the first interface update is transmitted to the first and second means for interfacing in response to the first command, and the second interface update is transmitted to the first and second means for interfacing in response to the second command.

15 34. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the second means for interfacing is generated from the means for updating in response to the request for remote or collaborative control from an operator located at the second location.

 35. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the second location is remote from the first location.

20 36. The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising means for communicating configured to provide communication between the means for updating and the second means for interfacing.

 37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the means for communicating is selected from a group including an intranet, the Internet, a local area network (LAN), a broadband network, and a wireless network.

25 38. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the means for updating and the first means for interfacing are located proximate to the imaging system.

39. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the second location is the first location.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the means for updating, the first means for interfacing, and the second means for interfacing are included in a collaboration control.

41. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising third means for interfacing at an another location where remote or collaborative control of the imaging system is requested, wherein the first, the second, and the third means for interfacing are provided at different locations.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the third means for interfacing is generated from the means for updating in response to a request for remote or collaborative control from an operator located at the another location.

43. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the means for updating is further configured to receive a third command from the third means for interfacing and transmit a third interface update to the third means for interfacing in response to the third command.

44. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the first interface update is transmitted to the first, second, and third means for interfacing in response to the first command, the second interface update is transmitted to the first, second, and third means for interfacing in response to the second command, and the third interface update is transmitted to the first, second, and third means for interfacing in response to the third command.

45. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the imaging system is selected from a group including a magnetic resonance (MR) imaging system, a computerized tomography (CT) imaging system, a nuclear medicine (NM) imaging system, and a x-ray system.

46. An image generated by the steps comprising:

providing a first user interface at a first location and a second user interface at a second location;

commanding an imaging system located at a third location with a command from at least one of the first user interface and the second user interface;
 5 and

generating an interface update in response to the command to the imaging system, the interface update including data representative of the image,

wherein the second user interface is provided at the second location when a remote or collaborative control of the imaging system is requested by a user at the second location.

47. The image of claim 46, wherein the first location and the second location are remote from each other.

48. The image of claim 47, wherein the third location is the same as the first location or the second location.

49. The image of claim 47, wherein the first, the second, and the third locations are remote from each other.

50. The image of claim 46, wherein the first location and the second location are proximate to each other.

51. The image of claim 50, wherein the third location is the same as the first location or the second location.

52. The image of claim 50, wherein the third location is remote from at least one of the first location and the second location.

53. The image of claim 46, wherein the providing step includes providing the second user interface using an application model in communication with the imaging system.

54. The image of claim 46, further comprising communicating to and from the first and the second user interfaces via an application model in communication with the imaging system.

55. The image of claim 54, wherein the generating step includes
5 generating the interface update using the application model.

56. The image of claim 55, further comprising updating the first and the second user interfaces in response to the interface update.

57. The image of claim 56, wherein the updating step includes displaying the image on a means for displaying associated with each of the first and the second user interfaces.
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58. The image of claim 46, wherein the command is selected from a group including image contrast prescription commands, scanning session commands, image acquisition plane prescription commands, archiving commands, pulse sequence prescription commands, image retrieval commands, imaging system configuration commands, and a variety of other commands.
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